Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 14076 01 OF 02 070806Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-13
/090 W
----------124147 070820Z /10
P 070730Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4776

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 14076

FOR EA/ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP, US
SUBJECT: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP INVITES AMERICAN VISIT

1. SUMMARY: FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL EXTENDS INVITATION FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND SENATOR KENNEDY TO VISIT THE PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMAL LAUNCHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS LED BY DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF MODERATE, LEGAL OPPOSITION. PLEASE ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGALCAME TO LUNCH SEPTEMBER 5 LARGELY AT HIS INSTIGATION. HE ARGUED THAT DEMOCRACY, WHILE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE PHILIPPINES, IS IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION WITH MARCOS IN FIRM COMMAND UNDER MARTIAL LAW DESPITE HIS ELECTIVE TERM OF OFFICE HAVING LONG SINCE RUN OUT. THE POPULATION, INCLUDING EVEN THE MILITARY AND POLICE FROM FIELD GRADE DOWN, IS DISGRUNTLED BUT COWED BY PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC FEAR AND WATCHFULLY AWAITS SOME DECISIVE TURN WHEREIN IT CAN DECLARE ITSELF AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM. CURRENT MARCOS HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTORAL PROMISES REPRE-SENT LITTLE MORE THAN HIS CONCERTED EFFORTS FURTHER TO DIDDLE THE U.S. INTO CONTINUING TO SUPPORT HIM. AT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 14076 01 OF 02 070806Z

SAME TIME AMERICAN PRESSURE SUFFICIENT TO FORCE MARCOS TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY PRESENTS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO AN EVENTUAL EXPLOSION OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY. DISSENTERS, AS OPPOSED TO DISSIDENTS, LOOK TO THE U.S. TO BE TOUGH WITH MARCOS IN THE PURSUIT OF HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. MEANWHILE, AMONG THESE ELEMENTS THE U.S. IMAGE HAS NEW LUSTRE THANKS TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIRM STAND FOR HUMAN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

RIGHTS.

3. PRESSED, MACAPAGAL CONCEDED THAT HE AND HIS DISSENTING COLLEAGUES HOPE THAT THE USG WILL CONDITION FURTHER IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES (THEY CONSIDER THE U.S. MILITARY BASES EXPENDABLE) UPON FREE ELECTIONS TO BE MEDIATED, EVEN SUPERVISED, BY THE U.S. I SUGGESTED THAT THE SHAPE AND DIRECTION OF ANY SOCIETY AND POLITY MUST EVOLVE FROM WITHIN ITSELF, AND EVEN GRANTING THAT THE U.S. IS NOT WITHOUT INFLUENCE, HE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE OUT SHORT-TERM POSSIBILITIES FOR FACILITATING SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS REFORMS ABROAD.

4. UPON DEPARTING MACAPAGAL LEFT THE FOLLOWING SELF-EXPLANTORY NOTE REFERRING TO THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (POHR), AND REQUESTING THAT ASSISTANCE IN SOUNDING OUT UN AMABASSADOR YOUNG OR SENATOR KENNEDY AS TO THEIR AVAILABILITY TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER AT THE FORMAL LAUNCHING OF THE ORGANIZATION AT SOME CONVENIENT DATE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1977.

5. BEGIN TEXT: THE PHILIPPINE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (POHR) WAS ORGANIZED AND INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN AUGUST, 1977 AND IS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INCORPORATORS, THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 14076 01 OF 02 070806Z

AS THE TOP OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT, HON. CALIXTO O. ZALDIVAR, MASONRY GRAND MASTER AND FORMER JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.
VICE PRESIDENTS, HON. LORENZO TANADA, FORMER SENATOR;
HON. SALVADOR P. LOPEZ, FORMER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE UN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES;
HON. JOSE ALEJANDRINO, CAREER PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS ONE OF THE TRAINEES IN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN 1946.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ATTY. EMMANUEL T. SANTOS, DELEGATE TO THE 1971 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.
TREASURER, PASTOR CIRILO RIGOS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF THE PHILIPPINES.

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 14076 02 OF 02 070818Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01
/090 W
----------124281 070820Z /10
P 070730Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4777

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 14076

FOR EA/ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

THE POHR AIMS TO UPHOLD, DEFEND, AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. ITS FORMATION WAS INSPIRED BY THE GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OF PRESENT JIMMY CARTER IN THE PURSUIT OF WHICH THE POHR HOPES TO ASSIST.

ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION EMBODIED IN ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION IS TO COLLABORATE WITH AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND MOVEMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

IN THE MEETING OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON AUGUST 25, 1977, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN IN OPERATION IT HOLD A FORMAL LAUNCHING TO WHICH SHALL BE INVITED AS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER AN EMINENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHAMPION FROM ABROAD.

THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE FORMED TO CARRY OUT THIS RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TO SELECT AS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER EITHER SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, JR., OR UN AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG OR SUCH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE AS PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, IF HE SO WISHES, MAY PICK.

THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED IN THE MAKING OF SOUNDINGS TOWARDS THE DETERMINATION OF THE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER WHO MAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 14076 02 OF 02 070818Z

FIX A DATE CONVENIENT TO HIM AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE YEAR 1977. AFTER AN ARRANGEMENT INCLUSIVE OF RELEVANT DETAILS IS THEREBY MADE, THE FORMAL INVITATION OF THE POHR WILL BE EXTENDED TO THE GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER. END OF TEXT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

6. COMMENT: THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IS THE SAME GROUP WHICH SPONSORED THE "FILIPINO PEOPLE'S CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS," WHICH TOOK PLACE AUGUST 20 JUST PRIOR TO THE WORLD PEACH THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE (MANILA 13099). WHILE ITS INFLUENCE UNDER MARTIAL LAW IS LIMITED LARGELY TO MORAL PERSUASION, THE GROUP IS AN IMPRESSIVE COALITION OF THE NON-VIOLENT, MODERATE, LEGAL OPPOSITION. ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE MANY FORMER LEADERS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (MACAPAGAL, TANADA, SALONGA, KALAW, RODRIGO), PROMINENT AND THOUGHTFUL INTELLECTUALS SUCH AS S.P. LOPEZ, AND CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT OPPOSITIONISTS. ITS PRESIDENT, FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CALIXTO ZALDIVAR (A MACAPAGAL APPOINTEE WHO REACHED MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE IN 1974), HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE LEGAL STRUGGLE AGAINST MARTIAL LAW. THE GROUP ADVOCATES THE IMMEDIATE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, REMOVAL OF ONE-MAN RULE, AND FREE AND HONEST NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

7. THE INVITATION WAS CLEARLY THE MAIN PURPOSE OF MACAPAGAL'S APPROACH AND MERITS, IN MY VIEW, A CONSIDERED REPLY. WE OF COURSE SHOULD CONVEY THE INVITATION TO SENATOR KENNEDY, AS REQUESTED. THE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE OF PARTICIPATION BY A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL IN THE POHR INAUGURATION IS ANOTHER MATTER WITH MORE SIGNIFICANT POLICY IMPLICATIONS. SOME SUCH VISIT LATER THIS YEAR COULD HAVE ADVANTAGES IN TERMS OF UNDERLINING HERE AND IN THE U.S. OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF
CONFIDENTIAL

THE PHILIPPINES. I WOULD ENVISAGE A BROADLY FOCUSED STOCK-TAKING VISIT ONE OR TWO MONTHS AFTER HOLBROOKE'S VISIT THIS MONTH. PARTICIPATION IN THE POHR INAUGURATION CEREMONIES COULD THUS BE PART OF A MORE GENERAL CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE GROUPS.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE FOR RESPONSE TO MACAPAGAL.
STULL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA14076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0069
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770991/aaaacyuh.tel
Line Count: 214
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa474a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1366744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP INVITES AMERICAN VISIT
TAGS: SHUM, OVIP, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa474a4b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009